

Minutes of ABAC Meeting. February 4, 2002

In attendance were Jack Johnson, Scott Smith, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Ted Packard, Ron Feldman, Jerry Van Hook (from Lexington), Bob Sawyer (from Bedford), Joey Gluschco, Valerie Barns (Bike Stop), Tom Scotto (Arlington Bicycle Club), Melody Tarbox (Bike Stop), Rustrum Goede (Quad Cycles), Kim Blair, Fabio Selbig, Ralph Elwell, Brice Nesbit (from Somerville) and John Hurdle.

The meeting began at 7:30

After we all introduced ourselves, Jack began the meeting by recapping the ABAC dinner at The Olive Branch in January. There were several people new to ABAC and it was suggested that we do it more often.

Updates-

1. Bike parking warrant article. The Bike Parking Warrant Article written primarily by Jack Johnson and Joey Gluschco was accepted by the Redevelopment Board. This was a major bureaucratic hurdle. The next action will be a public hearing concerning all potential warrant articles. The hearing will be held in March.
2. New Trail Guide Brochure. The Trail Guide Brochure containing information about the Minute Man Trail designed by Jack Johnson is being revised by Jack. This will be a radical revision. The brochure will contain less historical information and more current facts about the path and bicycle advocacy in general. The new brochure should be published this spring.
3. Date for Bike Arlington Tour. Jack found that the Breast Cancer Walk will again be on the same day as we planned to have the bike tour. This was a big headache last year as the bikeway was very congested in the morning and the early afternoon. There was considerable discussion about moving the date forward or backward. We decided to move the date of the tour up to May 5 even though it is Mother's Day.

Share The Road Signs.

Jack and Joey proposed putting Share The Road signs on local bike routes. Jack asked Joey how we should go about getting permission and assistance in making and locating the signs. Joey replied that she wasn't sure what the procedure would be and would inquire at Town Hall. There was a discussion about the size, color and possible location for these signs but these details were deferred to a future meeting.

Letters of support for regional bike paths.

1. Minuteman-Charles River Bikeway Connector
2. Somerville Community Path
3. Bike To The Sea Path.

Brice Nesbit spoke about the Somerville Community Path. This is an extension of the Linear Park in Somerville to the Charles River near Lechmere. The City of Somerville is applying for a grant to design the path. Brice informed us that the most difficult part of

building a recreational path is raising money for the design not the construction. Brice asked for a letter of support from ABAC. It was pointed out that there was no quorum present so we would have to do so informally and/or as individuals. Jack suggested that he could draft a letter that we could all sign as individuals.

Arlington Bicycle Club.

Tom Scotto informed us the Arlington Bicycle club is being formed under the sponsorship of Quad Cycles. There are currently 35 members and growing. A division of the club will be the Quad Cycles Racing Team which just received USCF sanction. The club will also serve an educational function. They are planning to put together bicycle safety and maintenance courses as well as establish a junior racing team at the high school. Jack suggested that they participate in the annual Bike Rodeo sponsored by the police department.

Bikeway maintenance and enhancements.

The storm damage behind Security Fence is being repaired slowly. The work was supposed to be completed in November. Ron will check with Rich Bento (DPW Dir.) about the current status of these repairs. Jack mentioned that the path is scheduled to be repaved in the spring. Rich Bento has had some trouble finding a contractor to do the work. There was some discussing and suggestions about what to do about the roots working their way up through the pavement of the path.

Ron brought up a question about ABAC's position about lighting the bike path. Jack said that ABAC has never taken an official position because there are differing views within the committee. The sense of the room on this occasion was that most present were not in favor of lighting the path beyond Varnum St.

Transportation Committee Report.

Scott updated us on the Mass. Ave. corridor redevelopment draft proposal for East Arlington. The proposal is to repave from the main fire station in The Center through East Arlington to Rt. 16. The road is 66 feet wide which constitutes a considerable barrier to crossing by pedestrians.

A traffic survey indicates that a single lane in either direction would carry the current traffic load. There is an alternative proposal for two lanes in either direction. The Transportation Committee proposes two public meetings to be held in East Arlington to discuss the proposals. Scott asked our opinions on both proposals. We had the usual debate on the utility of bike lanes.

Scott proposed a ten foot parking lane with a three foot buffer zone between parking and traffic lanes plus a single fifteen foot traffic lane. Jack suggested a twelve to thirteen foot parking lane with eleven foot travel lanes.

Upcoming events.

1. Ron informed us that the BMC Tour of Arlington will not take place this year because of economic reversals in the software industry.

2. The four town bike path meeting will be in Bedford this year and will be in April
3. The next ABAC meeting will be on March 4 at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall annex.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.